UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/1012
28 September 1999
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 24 SEPTEMBER 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF FINLAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to attach the statement issued on 23 September 1999 by the Presidency of the European Union on the demilitarization of the Kosovo Liberation Army (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Marjatta RASI
Permanent Representative of
Finland to the United Nations

99-27827 (E) 280999 280999

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued on 23 September 1999 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the demilitarization of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA)

The European Union welcomes the announcement by KFOR command that the Kosovo Liberation Army have completed their disarmament obligations. The European Union also welcomes the formation of the multi-ethnic Kosovo Protection Corps, under the political authority of the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and under the operational control of KFOR, to assist UNMIK in protection against civil emergencies. This humanitarian and rescue structure will facilitate the adaptation of the former KLA members into the civilian society.

The European Union expects full and unconditional observation of the agreements and fully supports KFOR in the implementation of the agreements. This will pave the way for a process of stabilization and demilitarization of Kosovar society, development of civilian institutions and inter-ethnic cooperation. The European Union remains firmly committed to assisting the people of Kosovo in their efforts to establish a democratic, multi-ethnic and pluralistic Kosovo, based on the rule of law and full respect for human rights, and re-establishing confidence among the peoples of Kosovo.